

51. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 46, and further comprising a dispensing auger positioned in the mixing region proximate the base wall for dispensing slurry from the mixing region.
52. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 46, and further comprising a motor operably connected to the second stirring apparatus for rotating the second stirring apparatus.
53. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 46, and further comprising a top wall enclosing the upper end of the side wall.
54. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 53, wherein the top wall has a cement feed port, a water feed port and an admixture feed port.
55. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 53, and further comprising a dust collection apparatus operably connected to the slurry mixer.

REMARKS

This is responsive to an Office Action dated August 29, 2002, in which the Examiner indicated that claims 28-45 were classified in 6 different groups. With this Amendment, it is elected to pursue prosecution of group 4 that included claims 28-37. It is respectfully requested that claims 1-27 and 38-45 be withdrawn from consideration.

New claims 46-55, which are directed to the elected embodiment of the slurry mixer, are also presented for consideration. After entry of this Amendment, claims 28-37 and 46-55 will remain pending in the present application.

Claim 32 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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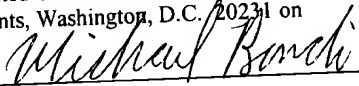
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REDLINED AMENDMENT

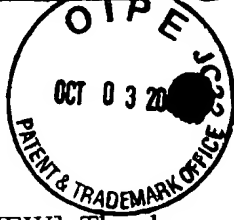
Claims As Amended

Please substitute the following amended claim for the respectively referenced claim currently on record:

32. [AMENDED ONCE] The slurry mixer of claim 31, wherein the upper mixing members and the lower mixing members engage each other as they move [passed] past each other to remove slurry therefrom.

Please add new claims 46-55 as follows:

46. [NEW] A slurry mixer for preparing slurry, the slurry mixer comprising:
a side wall with a lower end and an upper end;
a base wall enclosing the lower end of the side wall and defining a mixing region in
which slurry may be prepared;
a first stirring apparatus fixedly mounted in the mixing region, wherein the first stirring
apparatus has first mixing elements attached thereto; and
a second stirring apparatus rotatably mounted in the mixing region, wherein the second
stirring apparatus has second mixing elements attached thereto, wherein the first
mixing elements and the second mixing elements at least partially engage each
other as the second stirring apparatus is rotated to remove slurry therefrom, and
wherein the second mixing elements engage the side wall as the second stirring
apparatus is rotated to remove slurry from the side wall.



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47. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 46, wherein the first stirring apparatus includes an upper member and a plurality of upper mixing members that extend from the upper member.
48. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 47, wherein the second stirring apparatus has a lower member and a plurality of lower mixing members that extend from the lower member.
49. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 48, wherein the upper mixing members are offset from the lower mixing members so that the upper mixing members pass between the lower mixing members as the second stirring apparatus is rotated.
50. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 49, wherein the upper mixing members and the lower mixing members engage each other as they move past each other to remove slurry therefrom.
51. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 46, and further comprising a dispensing auger positioned in the mixing region proximate the base wall for dispensing slurry from the mixing region.
52. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 46, and further comprising a motor operably connected to the second stirring apparatus for rotating the second stirring apparatus.
53. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 46, and further comprising a top wall enclosing the upper end of the side wall.
54. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 53, wherein the top wall has a cement feed port, a water feed port and an admixture feed port.

55. [NEW] The slurry mixer of claim 53, and further comprising a dust collection apparatus operably connected to the slurry mixer.